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UNITED PRESS
INTERNATIONAL

APRIL 28, 1965

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UPI-103

(CIA)

WASHINGTON--VICE ADM. WILLIAM F. RABORN TOOK COMMAND OF AMERICA'S CLOAK-AND-DAGGER CORPS TODAY WITH THE PROMISE TO DO ALL HE CAN TO "LIVE UP TO THE CONFIDENCE" PRESIDENT JOHNSON HAS EXPRESSED IN HIM. RABORN, DEVELOPER OF THE POLARIS MISSILE, STEPPED INTO THE SHADOWS THAT ENVELOPS HIS NEW OUTFIT--THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY--THEN JOshed AT HIS WHITE HOUSE SWEARING-IN "THAT WAS MY LAST PUBIC SPEECH."

JOHNSON PRESIDED AT THE SWEARING-IN OF RABORN AND THE NEW NO. 2 CIA OFFICIAL, DEPUTY DIRECTOR RICHARD M. HELMS. THE PRESIDENT OBSERVED THAT RABORN'S TWO IMMEDIATE PREDECESSORS AS CIA DIRECTOR, JOHN A. MCCONE AND ALLEN W. DULLES, BOTH WERE REPUBLICANS. HE SAID HE HAD NOT ASKED RABORN ABOUT HIS POLITICS.

"BUT I DO KNOW ABOUT HIS TALENTS," THE PRESIDENT REMARKED, ADDING THAT "HIS GENIUS WAS PROVED" IN DEVELOPMENT OF THE POLARIS AND THAT HE EXPECTED AN EQUALLY TALENTED PERFORMANCE IN DIRECTING THE CIA.

JOHNSON PRAISED HELMS, A FORMER UNITED PRESS REPORTER WHO MADE INTELLIGENCE WORK A CAREER AFTER WORLD WAR II, AS "ONE OF THE MOST RESPECTED PROFESSIONAL CAREER MEN" IN WASHINGTON. HELMS HAS BEEN DEPUTY PLANS DIRECTOR FOR THE CIA.

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BOTH MCCONE AND DULLES WERE ON HAND AT THE WHITE HOUSE CELEBRATION TO CONGRATULATE RABORN. MCCONE, WHO RESIGNED TO RETURN TO FAMILY BUSINESS INTERESTS ON THE WEST COAST, WAS HONORED AT A PRIVATE RECEPTION LAST NIGHT BY THE PRESIDENT.

JOHNSON PRESENTED THE NATIONAL SECURITY MEDAL TO MCCONE FOR HIS "DISTINGUISHED LEADERSHIP TO THE FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE EFFORT OF OUR NATION."

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